

REPORT
OF THE
PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
British American Land Company.

W. J. RUFFY, Printer, 29, Budge Row, London.

REPORT

OF THE

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255 North America
Accompanying letter
100 Queen's Street
April 1835

From C. 26

To the British American Land Company.

YOUR COMMITTEE having, on the summons of your Honorary Secretary, assembled this day, and, in obedience to your instructions, having considered the Papers and Business referred to them beg leave to

REPORT,

THAT in recommending the immediate establishment of "THE BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY," they rather accede to the general wishes of the Colonial Residents themselves, and the public at large, influenced at this time by the example and effect of various circumstances, by bringing it forward as the continuance of a plan long since in contemplation, than presume to present it as a new measure upon which due consideration has not been bestowed, or on which theoretical arguments or bold assertions are required.

The fact, that in the year subsequent to the establishment of THE CANADA COMPANY, and so long since as the Spring of 1825, two Committees, independent of each other, and without any knowledge of their respective proceedings, were in simultaneous operation (one in the City of Montreal, and the other in London) sufficiently confirms this statement. The Gentlemen of the Province of Lower Canada, headed by the Lieutenant Governor, having, in the month of June in that year subscribed £182,000. towards a Capital of £1,000,000. for the purpose of forming a LOWER CANADA LAND COMPANY, deputed to this country one of their Committee, the Hon. W. B. FELTON, of the Legislative Council, with letters of credence to various Gentlemen connected with the Colony, and he found on his arrival in London, a Committee already in existence, proposing a similar capital for the same purposes,—a coalition took place, out of which another Committee was formed, and arrangements were made for the organization of the Company, —various conferences with his Majesty's Government were held, by whom the proposals of the Committee were approved, and the whole business was proceeding satisfactorily, when the events of the Winter of 1825 (too well remembered,) induced the Committee to defer their labors to a more favourable opportunity; that opportunity your Committee consider to have occurred, and a variety of circumstances justify, at *this time*, the revival of the undertaking; an undertaking which promises to be beneficial alike to the Colony, the Emigrant, and the Stockholder.

The success of the operations of the Canada Company in the Upper Province, has proved that the most sanguine anticipations of the promoters of that Institution have been far more than realized; and it is gratifying to know, that in the prosperity of that Company, the comfort of the Emigrant and the improvement of the Province, have fully kept pace with the advantage acquired by the Shareholder; independent of the benefit arising to the Manufacturing and Shipping Interest of the United Kingdom, by the extension of markets and the increased employment of tonnage. At the same time, your Committee are persuaded that the proximity of settlements in the Lower Province to the two shipping ports and emporiums of the Canadas, offers an especial recommendation, in the best and readiest markets, whether for the purchase of necessaries and luxuries, or the disposal of produce, to settlers under the proposed Company.

The extraordinary and increasing emigration to the British Colonies during the last year, ought not to be lost sight of. More than 55,000 are reported to have been landed in Lower Canada, nearly the whole of whom, equal to one-fifteenth of the population of *both Provinces*, have been absorbed therein; and from the facility with which they have found employment or locations, the actual improvement in their condition, as can be attested by your Committee, as well as from other sources of information, your Committee have reason to expect that the Emigration will not only increase in the course of the ensuing year, but consist of a class with more ample means of settlement. The various and liberal grants and enactments of the Provincial Legislature too, for making Roads, Railways, and Canals, some of which are in actual progress, are of importance to the speedy establishment of the Company: for one object alone of this kind, no less than £50,000 have been voted. These circumstances, it must be evident, are greatly favourable to the early formation of the Company, whose first attempts are contemplated in the vicinity of these works

It is not, however, necessary to explain the detail of the modes by which it should be effected, further than to remark that its object will be to purchase tracts of land from Government, Corporate Bodies, or Individuals in the Province of Lower Canada, or *other Provinces and Colonies in British America*; to open Roads, build Mills, &c. &c.; to dispose of the Lands to Emigrants and others; to afford information and assistance to, and facilitate the location of, persons intending to purchase Lands of the Company, and transmit their funds; and in all respects to hold in view principles and purposes similar to those of the Canada Company; varying, however, in such particulars as may seem to be advantageous, and adopting such other points as may have been overlooked in that Establishment, or which the peculiar situation, laws, population, and circumstances of the Province may seem to require.

It is within the knowledge of your Committee that besides the ungranted Lands and Reserves in Lower Canada, which, when the former Committee was in communication with his Majesty's Government, were calculated at four millions of acres, there are at this time many extensive private properties in the market, could purchasers be found on a scale commensurate with the quantity of acres to be sold. Upon these grounds, and in obedience to your request, your Committee have drawn up the following short Prospectus, which they respectfully submit to this Meeting; premising, however, that when it shall be taken into consideration, some of its provisions may admit of change, and others of value to the success of the Company, may present themselves.

Finally, your Committee is not disposed to anticipate any difficulties in arranging with his Majesty's Government, when the benefits, whether Individual, Colonial, or National are considered; at this period too, when the practicability of such undertakings have been fully tested, and when, as it is understood by the Committee, the Government is itself engaged in plans for promoting Emigration.

All this your Committee humbly submits.

(SIGNED)

NATH^l. GOULD,

CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

London, 6th February, 1832.

This REPORT being read to a numerous and very respectable Meeting of Gentlemen, convened by public advertisement, held at the London Tavern, the 9th of February, 1832,

G. R. ROBINSON, Esq., M.P., in the Chair,

It was resolved unanimously—That the REPORT be received and adopted.

That it is expedient to establish a Company, under the name and title of "THE BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY," with a Capital of £500,000. to be raised by Shares of £50. each.

That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to carry into effect the above object, with liberty to add to their number; and that it be referred to them to draw up a "PROSPECTUS" to be presented to the Shareholders, viz:—

G. R. ROBINSON, Esq., M.P.

P. M. STEWART, Esq., M.P.

GEO. SINCLAIR, Esq., M.P.

E. S. RUTHVEN, Esq., M.P.

JOHN BROWNE, Esq. M.P.

✶ NATHANIEL GOULD, Esq.

✶ ALEXANDER GILLESPIE, Esq.

HENRY BLISS, Esq.

JOHN SHUTER, Esq.

JAMES WILSON, Esq.

✶ JAMES DOWIE, Esq.

That JOHN GALT, Esq., be Honorary Secretary to the same.

That applications for Shares be addressed to the Committee, at their temporary Office, 1, Freeman's Court, Cornhill.

(Signed)

G. R. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his candid and able conduct in the Chair.

CHARLES BISCHOFF, Sec. pro. tem.